

TO STAND SOLIDLY FOR MCKINLEY.

Lawyer Jones Says This is the Duty of the Negro in the Present Campaign and a Throng of Representative Citizens Agree with Him—Mr. Newsome Wants Bryant as an Experiment—Prof. Hershaw Argues for Roosevelt.

Eight hundred enthusiastic people crowded into the Second Baptist church last Sunday afternoon, to listen to a discussion of the all-absorbing topic, "The Duty of the Negro in the Present Campaign," under the auspices of the Lyceum. President R. W. Thompson was in the chair and in introducing the speakers, said that the meeting was not a political one in the general acceptance of the term, but was an educational review of a highly important issue now up for settlement. He thought that it was a sacred mission for an organization to select an appropriate time to assemble and in calm and tolerant vein go over the facts and theories presented by the opposing parties to the end that an intelligent course of action might be disclosed. He insisted that the truth could take care of itself, and that to give both sides a fair hearing was the best evidence of the progress of a race toward culture, refinement and generosity of judgment.

Lawyer Thomas L. Jones was the principal orator, and he was introduced as a barrister who had made the ability of the Negro attorney respected in every court of the District. Mr. Jones' address was a scholarly presentation of the issues. It was well tempered, up to date, and was delivered in the polished, engaging and forceful manner for which the protege of the late John M. Langston is famous. He argued strongly from the republican standpoint, and urged the Negroes to stand firmly by McKinley and Roosevelt, as the best means of preserving our liberties and assuring material prosperity.

Mr. Jones reviewed the history of the Negro race in the United States through the days of slavery to emancipation, and the enactment of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution. "For forty years," he said, "every enactment that has benefited the colored race has been the instrument of the republican party." He charged upon the Negroes the necessity of not only reading the platforms and listening to the utterances of the two great political parties, but to observe closely the actions of both. The issue of imperialism was taken up by Mr. Jones, who severely criticized Senator Tillman. Democratic victory, the speaker considered, would be a vindication of oppression of the Negro, and mark of ingratitude to those equal under the laws. The sins of omission lodged against the republican party were due to the sins committed openly by the democracy.

Mr. J. T. C. Newsome, of Texas, formerly editor of a leading race paper, presented a brief rejoinder, offering reasons why the democratic party should receive Negro support. Mr. Newsome stated that he realized that he was on the unpopular side of the argument as far as a colored audience was concerned. He was not an apologist and had no wish to defend these measures that had been taken against the colored race. The republican party, he urged, had had it within their power to prevent the oppressive acts against his race, and the republican party had failed to exercise that power. The administration of President McKinley was severely criticized for its Porto

Rican reversal for continuing warfare in the Philippines and non-interference in the South. Mr. Newsome quoted the passages in the magazine article appearing under the signature of Governor Roosevelt in which he criticized the Tenth Cavalry. He cited an authority in defence of the colored troops in their rearward movement, who states that they were ordered to fall back by a commanding officer.

Mr. Bryan, said the speaker, had promised to protect every right of every citizen as far as his power extended regardless of color. The same promise had been made by McKinley, the speaker conceded, but that promise had not been kept.

A lesson might be learned from the Germans, whom no party own d, he thought. Their attitude was compared with the statement of Lemuel E. Quigg, who had declared that the Negro could not be driven from the republican ranks with a club. The duty of the Negro, Mr. Newsome conceived, was to vote for the democratic candidate this time in the interests of his own race if for no other reason than as an experiment. Mr. L. M. Hershaw made an eloquent speech, saying the audience did not appear to need any missionary work to hold it in line. He took occasion, however, to make ringing defense of Governor Roosevelt and stated that the Scribner article reflecting upon the colored troops had been garbled and so distorted by omission, that the meaning had been completely reversed.

The occasion was an ovation to McKinley and Roosevelt.

COL. MAT N. LEWIS,

The Successful Daily Negro Editor—A Strong Character—A Successful Career—A Power in Virginia.

No few Negroes have had the ambition to begin the publication of a daily paper in the interest of the Negro—a consummation devoutly to be wished" so say they; just a few have attempted to materialize this seemingly "terrible" task and fewer still have succeeded. Virginia, with Norfolk as the lucky town claims the pioneer in this step, the most successful of that fewer and every one knows Col. Lewis of the Daily Newport News Recorder. The Recorder is the acknowledged leader in its line of journalism. Though published in the southern part of Virginia, the editor, Col. Lewis makes no pretense at apologizing for the wrongs perpetrated upon the southern Negro by the southern white man, as some of our papers are wont to do here of late. Clean, aggressive, yet conservative, the growth of The Recorder under the efficient management of Col. Lewis has been wonderful. From a four page daily with three-fourths of the matter plate—it has grown to a four page daily with two-thirds of the reading matter original and the remaining third taken up in legitimate paying advertising, thus demonstrating that it does not require \$50,000 subscribed by Negroes to run a daily, but that the man with the everlasting qualities of Col. Lewis can conduct a Negro daily forever; make it respectable, readable and a success financially. The Newport News Recorder is a power locally, and is felt so far as the Negro vote is concerned throughout the state. To attempt to legislate in around Newport News without consulting the editorial rooms of The Recorder is like attempting to become a factor in the republican party without consulting Marcus Aurelius Hanna.

Col. Lewis outside of being an extraordinary, successful editor, is a successful lawyer. The cases, those that require pure legal thought, and work, which he has successfully handled before the Virginia bar can hardly be counted within the hundred mark. He is recognized as one of the best lawyers in the whole commonwealth. Nor does he have to confront so much prejudice as is often the case with the colored lawyer in the South. The man himself is so fine in character, so generous in spirit, that his most sincere enemies in politics and policy, recognize at once his ability, and if under law he is right, as is the Southern term, "It is so and is hereby ordered."

Col. Lewis had been the candidate for federal office but finding that he was going to be defeated, instantly gave up his own campaign and started in the interest of some good man of the race. So much unlike the average colored politician, who, finding that he is not going to get a piece of the pie, believes in turning the whole thing over to "my friend, Capt. Jones," for an example. The Colonel is free from such hypocrisy. If the republicans in the New Port district want an independent candidate for Congress, it has often been suggested that Col. Lewis would be the man, since he alone can win the entire Negro vote and the independent white suffrage.

In manner the Col. is indeed a gentleman; easily approached, congenial in nature; almost, sweet in disposition; generous in spirit, a shrewd lawyer, a successful editor, a living example of our unlimited possibilities. He has expressed his desire to run an eight page daily soon, with a sixteen page Saturday evening edition. We look forward for the paper. A thought along this line, according to Col. Lewis' standard means it is half done. The Colonel's recent visit to Washington was the occasion for much joy on the part of his hundreds of Washington friends.

If McKinley is elected, and we are just as sure of that fact as we are that William Jennings Bryan is an exponent of Southern barbarism, in all probabilities the Col. will likely not be forgotten when it comes to rewarding the faithful. His lamp was found burning and for that matter is burning still. Mr. Lewis has worked faithfully for the party ever since he has been a voter. His service has always been at the command of the party, and right proudly has he responded to every call. "When the saints are marching in," we trust that our distinguished friend "will be one among that number," and the outlook is favorable since he has "kept the faith."

LET US REASON TOGETHER.

This is the first week in October and every subscriber and agent knows what this means. It means that all monthly bills must be paid. It takes money to pay bills, and The Colored American has a great many of them. Subscribers who know themselves to be in arrears should send their subscriptions in at once. This applies also to our great army of agents who have not settled for September. Don't wait to be dunned and then get mad about it. Settle up now and this means YOU.

Mr. Clarence C. White as violinist possesses the artistic temperament to a marked degree, as well as the indispensable gift of sympathetic interpretation. His tone is full and his facility of execution is wonderful.—Elvira (O) Daily News.

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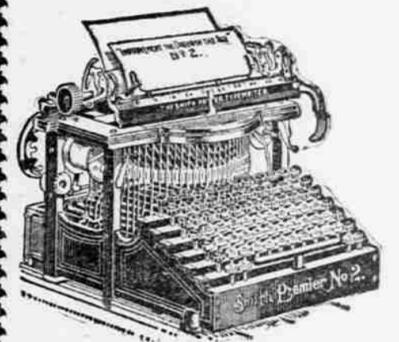
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